

**Board of Commissioners
Minutes
January 23, 2017
(approved February 27, 2017)**

Present: L. Woods, T. Pellegrino, J. Comer, J. Balcom, Superintendent R. Miner, Water Quality Support/Administrative Manager J. Lavoie

Excused: G. Keller

Financial Review – December 2016 – Natalie Couture

R. Miner noted that account 70550 (R&M Pumping Station) is at 134% because of the pumping and surging of well #3 and the replacement of the pump column. N. Couture noted that the budget is currently at 50% at half way through the year and that this will not have an effect on the budget.

L. Woods questioned the \$41,476 in open purchase orders and questioned why this money is reported in this fashion. N. Couture noted that these are expenses to which the District is already committed.

Board of Commissioners to review minutes from the December 19, 2016 Public session.

A motion was made by T. Pellegrino and seconded by J. Balcom to accept the minutes from the December 19, 2016 Public session as written. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Board of Commissioners to discuss Capital Improvement Plan with Keith Pratt of Underwood Engineers, Inc.

K. Pratt noted that the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was updated for the 2018 fiscal year. It is essentially the same as last year. Some completed projects fell off the CIP; some projects were pushed out into the future. He noted that those projects which were pushed out were pushed out to try to line up with their current status.

J. Balcom questioned whether this is a bare bones CIP or a wish list. K. Pratt noted that this CIP falls somewhere in between these; the CIP is trying to balance needs versus wants.

L. Woods noted that the District will present this CIP to the Planning Board to work in conjunction with the Town to possibly coordinate projects. This is not required but may be beneficial.

**Board of Commissioners to hear updates from Keith Pratt of Underwood Engineers Inc. regarding the PFOA progress at:
PWW Booster Pumping Station
Wells 4 & 5**

PWW Booster Pumping Station – K. Pratt noted that this station is large enough to get inside. It looks like this project will stay within the budget, but not all costs are in yet. It should be operational in February. The delay was caused by electrical concerns/problems.

L. Woods questioned whether this pumping station can be keep running with a generator. K. Pratt noted that this is possible, although the District will have to use a transformer as the District's portable generator does not match exactly without one. R. Miner noted the cost for this transformer would be approximately \$14,000. Connections have been made to run this pumping station with a generator. L. Woods questioned the District's confidence that a generator would be available when needed. R. Miner noted he could revisit the agreement with the generator rental entities. J. Comer suggested that a permanent generator would cost about \$20,000 and asked for a specific price quote. He noted that there are natural gas lines in this area. K. Pratt noted that he will come up with some contingencies including getting a quote for a generator that will be able to serve this station.

Wells 4 & 5 – K. Pratt noted that Underwood Engineers is in the middle of the 30% design for PFC treatment. A status meeting will be held with staff in 2 weeks. He noted that the scope will result in a plan that lays out a permanent plant at this site. The Hoosic Falls units originally offered by St Gobain Performance Plastics (SGPP) would be okay on a temporary basis, but not on a permanent one. These units are too small to provide the permanent design flow, but would be OK for flows between 400 and 500 gpm (temporary). SGPP has only funded through the 30% design phase through their escrow account.

K. Pratt wondered whether lime would be used with the new treatment plant. NHDES is pushing to not use lime. K. Pratt wants an update of the discussions with NHDES and SGPP. T. Pellegrino noted that in the past other chemicals have been more expensive than lime. K. Pratt noted that he would come back with expense information on lime and other chemicals.

L. Woods questioned whether wells 4 & 5 would be back on-line within 10 years. K. Pratt noted that the MVD is not alone with the concern for

PFOAs. He noted that he hopes that this will help to bring a quick resolution to this issue and put the wells back on line within this 10 year period. L. Woods noted that he does not have confidence about wells 4 & 5. He noted that everyone is looking for SGPP to step up to pay for this fix. R. Miner noted that the state will be pushing for some resolution sooner rather than later.

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Board of Commissioners to discuss project ESRs (engineering contracts) #33-36 with Keith Pratt of Underwood Engineers, Inc.

ESR 33 (Water Rate Update-2017) – K. Pratt noted that the last rate increase was in 2011 with the last rate model update in 2014. This rate model update will be done this spring and will be expedited to see if a rate increase is needed. This ESR is in the amount of \$15,000.

ESR 34 (Booster Pumping Station Alternative Evaluation) – K. Pratt noted that the Turkey Hill Booster Pumping station is the only station boosting the pressure to the high pressure system. It is necessary to make this redundant in the event that the Turkey Hill Booster Pumping station is unavailable. This proposal is to look for these alternatives and report back to the District. This ESR is in the amount of \$12,000. L. Woods noted that he thinks there is an easement in the area of wells 7 & 8 which is a possibility. R. Miner noted there are currently 2 pumps at the Turkey Hill Booster Pumping station.

ESR 35 (Lime Station Alternatives Evaluation) – K. Pratt noted that this would involve wells 2,3,4,5,7,&8. He noted that Merrimack is only of a few or the only water district in the state that still uses lime in their system. Lime is used for pH adjustment. L. Woods noted that the District needs to be prepare to education the public for the use of lime or any other chemical in the water system. K. Pratt noted that this ESR is for preliminary work only in the amount of \$18,000.

ESR 36 (Tank Improvements Final Design (Turkey Hill and Hutchinson)) – K. Pratt noted that this ESR is for the implementation of improvements to these two tanks. This will be put out to bid. These are safety and security improvements. This bid will go out in the spring for work this summer. UEI did not look at the Parker Road tank. It was noted that this tank will probably need to be cleaned and disinfected for use during the time that the Hutchinson Roade tank is down. The total amount

for this ESR is \$25,900. The total for this entire project is \$70,900.

5. Board of Commissioners to review and/or approve the 2017-2018 budget.

A motion was made by J. Balcom and seconded by T. Pellegrino to bring the 2017-2018 budget forward as presented in the amount of \$3,477,099. The motion passed 4-0-0.

6. Board of Commissioners to review 2017-2018 Warrant Articles.

The Board decided that L. Woods would speak to Article 3; T. Pellegrino would speak to Article 4; G. Keller would speak to Article 5; J. Comer would speak to Article 6; and J. Balcom would speak to Article 7. Articles 1 and 2 are for the election of 2 Commissioners and 1 District Clerk, respectively.

A motion was made by T. Pellegrino and seconded by J. Comer to bring the 2017-2018 Warrant Articles forward as presented. The motion passed 4-0-0.

7. Board of Commissioners to discuss the Flatley project located on DW Highway with Kevin Walker of the John Flatley Company.

K. Walker noted that the concern of the MVD is the 16" line up the Daniel Webster Highway. He noted that a meeting was held with R. Miner and NHDOT. NHDOT stated that the line would need to be on the east side of the road; the MVD would like the line on the west side of the road. The currently existing 12" line is adequate for the apartment complex.

L. Woods noted that the MVD is not interested in gathering easements outside of the NHDOT right-of-way on the west side of the road. R. Miner noted that he would like to see the John Flatley Company try to acquire the easements on the west side of the road outside of the NHDOT right-of-way. Attorney G. Prunier representing Flatley, questioned what the John Flatley Company should do if they are unable to acquire all of the easements needed. He noted that they are willing to put in the 16" line as requested by the MVD.

J. Comer questioned the reason given by the NHDOT for not allowing the 16" water main extension in their right-of-way. R. Miner noted that NHDOT did not want the same utility on both sides of the highway. J. Comer questioned whether a second opinion was solicited. No such second opinion from NHDOT has been solicited.

It was noted that the 16" water main extension is holding up this project at present. K. Walker noted that no one has spoken to the abutters at present.

T. Pellegrino noted that the MVD does not have the right of eminent domain, this must go through the Town of Merrimack.

G. Prunier noted that NHDOT will be approached for a second opinion. If the second opinion is the same as the first then the John Flatley Company will approach the abutters. If there is no luck with the abutters then the John Flatley Company will return to the MVD. He asked the MVD for a letter stating that the

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MVD requires the 16" water main extension. T. Pellegrino suggested that a letter from NHDOT stating their opinion might be a better idea.

L. Woods stated that it appears that the John Flatley Company is asking the MVD to endorse this project. T. Pellegrino noted he would like to have the MVD's attorney look at this issue.

J. Comer suggested that the John Flatley Company show the Planning Board approved plan to the abutters. K. Walker noted that this plan does not specify the 16" line.

L. Woods noted that he likes the suggestion of T. Pellegrino that the MVD's attorney look at this. He does not like creating an exception. This appears to be outside the purview of the MVD, which is to produce and distribute potable water.

T. Pellegrino suggested that the MVD seek counsel from their attorney while the John Flatley Company seeks a second opinion from NHDOT, then goes to the abutters, if necessary. He noted that the MVD should wait until their attorney is consulted before the possibility of a letter from the District is considered.

8. Board of Commissioners to review resumes and discuss candidates to fill the Treasurer's position.

This issue will be taken up at a later meeting.

There was no Non-Public session this evening.

9. Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

10. New Business

There was no new business at this time.

11. Superintendent's Report

There was no superintendent's report at this time.

12. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public at this time.

13. Questions from the Press

There were no questions from the press at this time.

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Adjourn

A motion was made by T. Pellegrino and seconded by J. Comer to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 PM. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Pointon, Recording Secretary